

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 offers [federal tax credits](#) for investing in energy efficiency and solar power at our homes and businesses through 2032! You could receive as much as \$10,000 in tax credits—but not all in one tax year—so plan wisely. Use this strategy for the highest returns on your investments, including healthier indoor air and improved comfort to lower utility costs and tax liabilities to a cooler planet:¹

1. Tighten the [building envelope](#) and/or install more efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment ([HVAC](#)) and other major appliances before installing [solar panels](#)—unless you need solar power’s larger tax credits for overall cash flow.
2. Consult the [LCAN website](#) and attend an LCAN [B4UBuy workshop](#) for reliable, experienced-based guidance. (LCAN accepts no finder’s fees for products or services recommended for your home or business.)
3. Before spending thousands, spend a few hundred to [hire an energy assessor](#) to identify your home or business’ biggest needs using an infiltrometer (“blower door”), infrared photography (“thermography”) and, if using a forced-air HVAC system, duct leakage (“duct blaster”) test.
4. Despite popular opinion, new [windows](#) and/or pedestrian or garage [doors](#) likely aren’t your most pressing need—unless they are irreparably damaged, warped or ill-fitted. [Weatherizing](#) doors and windows and adding storms may make more sense.
5. Use a programmable [thermostat](#). Hire a qualified contractor to service your [HVAC](#) systems annually. If you can’t find that equipments’ installation-inspection and/or Energy Guide sticker(s) to determine their ages and efficiencies, ask the service technician to determine that information.
6. Replace older, less efficient [HVAC](#) and major [appliances](#) with the smallest [Energy Star](#)-rated models that will meet your needs. Tell the HVAC installer if you ...
7. ... plan next to add or upgrade the [insulation](#) of the attic and basement band boards to break the [Stack Effect](#).
8. Install [solar power](#) panels if your roof or grounds are suitable sites. If you need a new roof, install it first and choose light-colored [roofing](#) to reduce heat absorption.

¹ This guidance is primarily for residents and businesses occupying owned space. Tips for renters can be found on our [Simple Steps](#) web pages and for dorm dwellers on our [Back to School](#) page.